

Message Text

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UNCLAS SEOUL 3530

STATE FOR CU; USIA FOR IEA, ICS

E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: ALWIN NIKOLAIS DANCE THEATRE

1. THE 10-MEMBER NIKOLAIS DANCE THEATRE, LED BY CHOREOGRAPHER ALWIN NIKOLAIS, MADE ITS KOREAN DEBUT AT THE NATIONAL THEATER IN SEOUL MAY 11.
2. EMPLOYING PSYCHEDELIC COLORS, LIGHT AND SOUND, YOUNG AMERICAN DANCERS PERFORMED ON STAGE WITH STYLE AND INTENSITY RARELY SEEN BY KOREAN AUDIENCES. THEY WON THE HEARTS OF MANY KOREANS WHO FOR THE FIRST TIME WITNESSED THIS UNIQUE ART. THE WELL APPOINTED 1,500-SEAT THEATER WAS FILLED WITH DANCE ENTHUSIASTS WHO GAVE THE VISITING AMERICAN MODERN DANCERS WARM AND ENTHUSIASTIC APPLAUSE.
3. SPONSORED BY JOONGANG ILBO, A LEADING NEWSPAPER IN SEOUL, AND TBC, ITS AFFILIATE BROADCASTING STATION, THE INITIAL FEAR OF OBSCURITY IN VIOLATION OF KOREAN LAW QUICKLY DISAPPEARED. SEVERAL CRITICS WERE FULL OF PRAISE FOR NIKOLAIS' TALENT IN CREATING A NEW ART FORM OF INSTANTANEOUS AND EVER CHANGING IMAGES.

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4. ONE HIGH-LEVEL KOREAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL REMARKED, "IT WAS TRULY SUPERB, A MARVELOUS VISUAL EXPERIENCE."

MR. AN MIN-SOO, A NOTED PRODUCER, SAID:

"MR. NIKOLAIS IS A GENIUS, BREAKING TRADITIONAL CONCEPTS AND CRATING NEW ONES TO ENABLE MANKIND TO ENJOY ART IN ITS FULL DIMENSION. HE EFFECTIVELY DEPLOYS COMPLEX GEOMETRICAL AND METAPHYSICAL SEQUENCES OF COLOR AND SOUND -- GIVING A POWERFUL SHOCK TO OUR TRADITIONAL NOTION OF ART."

5. MS. YOOK WAN-SOON, A MODERN DANCE PROFESSOR AT EWHA WOMANS UNIVERSITY, SAID NIKOLAIS DANCE THEATRE GAVE THE KOREANS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE A FIRST-RATE INTEGRATED MODERN DANCE PERFORMANCE. "CROSSFADE" WAS BOTH POETICAL AND SENSUAL, WELL INTEGRATED IN HARMONY IN MOTION, COLOR, LIGHT AND SOUND."

6. PAO GAVE A RECEPTION FOR NIKOLAIS GROUP OF 16, INTRODUCING THEM TO LEADING KOREAN DANCERS, CHOREOGRAPHERS, ARTISTS, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND MEDIA LEADERS.
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